

Jeffords Seeks to Boost Recycling With Tax Incentives for Businesses



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Hoping to stimulate recycling in the business sector, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee ranking member James M. Jeffords (I-Vt.) July 13 introduced legislation (S. 3654) that would offer a tax credit to companies to help offset the cost.

The Recycling Investment Saves Energy (RISE) Act of 2006 would create a 15 percent tax credit for the purchase or lease, or a 50 percent depreciation deduction for the purchase, of machinery and equipment that is used "exclusively to collect, distribute, or recycle qualified refuse and recyclable materials."

The legislation also would permit tax-exempt bond financing to be used to finance solid waste recycling facilities.

"This bill will help capture the significant energy savings available through greater recycling," Jeffords said in a news release. "The RISE Act will also advance environmental goals, including lessening the need for new landfills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

In the "findings" section of the legislation, Jeffords included a statement that corporate recycling is on the decline and that manufacturing facilities that rely on recycled feedstock are closing or are forced to "re-tool to use virgin materials." After outlining the environmental impacts of recycling, the bill concludes that "a national investment in the reuse and recycling industries is needed to preserve and expand America's reuse and recycling infrastructure."

There is no companion bill in the House.

Jeffords said in his release that more than 35 groups have expressed support for the legislation, including the National Recycling Coalition and the American Beverage Association.